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## **V-22 arrives at NAS Paxtuxent River**

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NWSA)— The first Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey was delivered recently to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. The flight originated at Bell Helicopter Textron's Flight Research Center at the Arlington, Texas municipal airport. The seven-hour flight included fuel stops at West Memphis, Ark., and London-Corbin, Ky.

The V-22's trip to Maryland follows a successful 12-flight series of initial flight envelope expansion tests. The tests included helicopter mode vertical take-offs and landings, transitions to wing-borne flight and speeds up to 250-knots in airplane mode.

Bell Boeing will build a total of five Ospreys for the Department of the Navy this year.

# **NAVNEWS**

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## **USS *Nassau* ARG demonstrates flexibility**

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- USS Nassau with elements of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked, is now operating off the coast of Africa, part of a joint task force standing-by for a possible evacuation mission in Zaire should the continuing armed clashes between rebel forces and government troops endanger U.S. citizens.

The force of several hundred Marines and embarked aircraft, in a textbook display of the inherent flexibility of Naval forces, was detached from the rest of the ARG near the conclusion of Operation Silver Wake, the evacuation of U.S. citizens and other

non-combatants from Albania.

While Sailors and Marines of the ARG continues to cover two separate contingency evacuation missions, some of the ARG units are also part of Operation Destined Glory, a NATO exercise in Western Spain.

Marine Corps Col. Emerson Gardner, 26th MEU commanding officer, emphasized the benefits of deployed forces of the Marine Corps team. "I think this is a real testimony to the flexibility of the MEU and amphibious ready group that we are embarked out here on. The fact is that we can split up and cover operations 5,000 miles apart."



*Super Hornet fires its first AIM-9 missile on April 5. (U.S. Navy Photo)*

## Nominations for supply corps officer award sought

by JO3 Brenda Granberry, BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Nominations for the VADM Robert F. Batchelder Award for calendar year 1996 are now being accepted. The award recognizes supply corps officers who made significant personal contributions to the supply readiness of their assigned commands.

The annual award was established in

1983 by the Navy League of the United States.

All active duty and reserve supply officers, serving afloat or ashore, are eligible for nomination. Commanding officers or officers-in-charge must submit their nominations by April 15 to the Director, Officer Plans Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS-211S), Washington DC, 20370-211S.

A committee chaired by the vice commander of the Naval Supply

Systems Command will evaluate the nominations and make selection recommendations.

Winners will receive their awards at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Ga., in July.

Additional details, guidelines and requirements are available in NAVADMIN 073/97 or contact BUPERS (PERS-211S) at (703) 695-6304 (DSN 225).

## Flag with history to hang in NAS Whidbey galley

WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (NWSA)—A piece of Navy history was recently presented to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Wash.

John Welch, a civilian employee, came across a flag with links to the late ADM Chester W. Nimitz and thought it would make an ideal gift for the ADM Nimitz Hall Galley.

The Yacht Ensign, which dates back to the mid-1930s, was accepted by NAS Whidbey Island skipper CAPT Larry Munns. It came from the estate of Frank and Martha King, residents of Oak Harbor, Wash.

Welch, a computer specialist with Information Resource Management, had helped settle the estate. The flag was donated in memory of Frank King who had received the flag from then-CAPT Nimitz while serving as

a ship's carpenter on USS Augusta. Nimitz later served as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet during World War II.

According to King, Nimitz expected the best from his men and treated everyone with respect. This teamwork made USS Augusta one of the best run ships in the fleet during the 1930s.

King's wife Martha was known throughout Oak Harbor. She was an author of children's books and an active worker in community causes.

"I am sure she'd be proud to see this flag here at NAS Whidbey Island for all to see," said Welch.

## Status of the Navy



**Personnel:** 400,142 active duty;  
234,449 Ready Reserves;  
97,725 Sel Reserves;  
136,724 Indiv Ready Reserves;  
213,048 civilians

**Aircraft:** 4,754

**Ships:** 351

**Underway:** 172 ships(49%)

**Deployed:** 115 ships;(33%) 59,913 personnel

**Exercises:** 9

**Port Visits:** 12

**SSNs at Sea:** 29(40%)

### LHAs/LHDs/LPHs/MCSs at Sea:

USSEssex/11th MEU: transit, western Pacific

USSNassau/26th MEU: transit, Gulf of Guinea

USS Boxer: transit, mid Pacific

USS New Orleans: transit, Coral Sea

USS Inchon: transit, eastern Atlantic

### Ships Assigned to the Middle East Force:

USS Paul Hamilton, USS Leftwich, USS Fletcher, USS Ardent, USS Dextrous, USS Nicholson, USS Halyburton

### Carriers/Airwings at Sea:

USS Kitty Hawk/CVW 11: transit, mid Pacific

USS Theodore Roosevelt/CVW 3: local ops, Arabian Gulf

USS Independence: transit, Indian Ocean

USS George Washington: local ops, western Atlantic

USS Constellation: transit, eastern Pacific

### Other Exercises/Operations:

Operation Guardian Retrieval

Operation Silver Wake

Operation Southern Watch

Maritime Interception Ops

Counter Drug Ops

Exercise Blue Harrier 97

Exercise Inspired Siren

Exercise MCMEX 97-2K

Exercise Sharem 120B



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Editor

JO2 Jeremy E. Allen

Production Manager

JOCS(AW) Gwyneth J. Schultz

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# Super Hornet aces milestones

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson praised the Navy's new F/A-18E/F Super Hornet Wednesday in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee Defense Subcommittee. Responding to questions about the program, Johnson said, "I've flown them both [the F/A-18 C/D and E/F]. As you walk up to the E/F, you feel like you're walking up to a Hornet aircraft. As soon as you light off the afterburner, take off and get airborne ... and look at the system response, you realize you're not

in a Hornet. The enhancements ... make it truly a very different airplane." On April 5, the Super Hornet test program achieved a key milestone when test pilot LT Tom Hole fired an AIM-9 missile from a two-seat F/A-18F, scoring a success on the first missile test with the Super Hornet. Plans call for another AIM-9 test this week. AIM-7 and AIM-120 missile tests are also scheduled.

Saturday's successful missile launch comes on the heels of all seven flight test F/A-18E/Fs flying last Friday — some of them three times — for a total of 13 flights. With all seven test

Super Hornets now flying, the team Super Hornets have completed flying nearly 530 flights and nearly 850 flight hours.

Now into the second year of the three-year flight test program at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, NAS Paxtuxent River, development of the Super Hornet is on schedule and on budget, with the aircraft 700 pounds underweight.

Production of the first Super Hornets for fleet replacement squadrons begins later this year at prime contractor McDonnell Douglas. The Navy plans to buy 1,000 F/A-18E/Fs through 2016.

## Navy trades "guns for gooneys"

MIDWAY ISLAND (NWSA) — The Navy traded "guns for gooneys" when Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton transferred possession of Midway Island to the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in ceremonies on the atoll April 3. Midway is the home of the Laysan Albatross, widely known as the "Gooney Bird" because of their comic attempts to land and take off from their island roosts.

Fifty-five years after the Battle of Midway in which more than 3,000 Sailors and Marines on both sides lost their lives, the island is now the scene of more peaceful efforts on the front lines of another battle — that for environmental conservation. In 1988, the Fish and Wildlife Service created a refuge on the existing Navy base. After completing environmental clean-up in June, the Navy will close its facility and the entire island will become a wildlife refuge.

"We have a duty to protect the lands, waterways and airspace entrusted to our care," said the Secretary. "It is a responsibility that the United States Navy takes very seriously."

## Twelve new ships to join the fleet

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Sailors can look forward to 12 new ships entering the fleet in FY98 and FY99 and the Bureau of Naval Personnel is already making plans to select top-notch personnel to run the new ships through their initial operations.

The eighth Nimitz class aircraft carrier, USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), will enter the fleet in the summer of 1998 as the numerical replacement for USS Independence (CV 62). The first seven Flight II Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyers will be commissioned in FY-98 and FY-99. The ships have an improved electronic warfare suite, extended range surface-to-air missiles, Link 16 and an improved tactical information exchange system.

Expeditionary warfare forces will gain significant capability and modernization with the addition of the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Bon Homme Richard (LHD 6) and the Dock Landing Ship USS Pearl Harbor

(LSD 52). Pearl Harbor will be the first LSD to have the integrated Ship Self-Defense System (SSDS). All other LSDs will be backfitted with SSDS by 2002. USS New Orleans (LPH 11) and USS Guam (LPH 9), both built in the 1960's, are scheduled for decommissioning.

The second Seawolf nuclear attack submarine, USS Connecticut (SSN 22), is also scheduled to join the Fleet in FY98. The Seawolf class boats have an advanced design sensor suite with unmatched combat systems performance at all speeds, including automatic passive high-speed contact tracking, which is particularly important against diesel and electric submarines.

Thirty-three ships will be decommissioned or transferred to the Naval Reserve Force over the next two years including the aircraft carrier USS Independence (CV 62), the guided missile cruiser USS Arkansas (CGN 41), seven guided missile frigates, 19 attack submarines and one submarine tender.

## Notable Quotable

"A warship is the best ambassador"  
-- Sir Winston Churchill



## Winners of the SECDEF Environmental Security Award

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Three Navy commands and one individual are winners of the Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Award for FY96 and will be honored at a ceremony April 24 at the Pentagon.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Md., won in two categories: Natural Resources Conservation, small installation; and Environmental Quality, industrial installation.

Catherine M. Zielske, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., won in the Natural Resources Conservation, individual category.

The New Attack Submarine Program, Arlington, Va., won in the Pollution Prevention, Weapons System Acquisition Team category.

The Environmental Cleanup category award went to Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.

## Naval Reserve heroes honored

by LCDR James Pitchford, Legislative Information Management Division, Director Naval Reserve Force staff

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Naval Reserve American heroes were honored recently during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Naval Memorial in Washington, D.C.

RADM G. Dennis Vaughan, commander of the Naval Reserve, presided over the March 27 ceremony that remembered Reserve Force personnel who died for their country.

"We gather together to honor our own ...,"

said Vaughan. "In battle, no distinction is made over whether this Sailor or that Sailor is active or Reserve. It's getting the job done that counts."

"Our fallen heroes, and they are heroes every one, have done their duty," Vaughan continued. "They have left for us the legacy to do ours with no less passion nor commitment. If I had only one wish, it would be that never, ever again, under any circumstance, would it be necessary to chisel another Soldier's, Sailor's or Airman's name in stone."

## Subway coming to NEXCOM

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NWSA) —

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) recently signed a five-year license agreement that will bring Subway Sandwiches & Salad restaurants to U.S. Naval installations around the world.

"We are very pleased that we can now offer our customers Subway sandwiches and salads," said RADM Paul O. Soderberg, commander, NEXCOM. "This is a great quality of life enhancement for our customers and the Navy Exchange System."

"Having Subway restaurants on Navy installations will provide more choices to the men and women in the Navy as well as a greater level of convenience to their families," said Mike Sherman, director of new business development for Subway restaurants.

Subway Sandwich and Salads is the second largest fast food franchise in the world with more than 12,500 restaurants in 57 countries.

## NAVY-MARINE CORPS NEWS

Navy-Marine Corps News is a videotaped newscast generated for broadcast to Navy-Marine Corps fleet and shore units. The next Navy-Marine Corps News (program #715) includes the following stories:

- Sailors and Marines take center field as San Diego Padres honor the nation's military
- FBI honors Sailors for their TWA Flight 800 recovery efforts
- FOCUS ON THE FLEET: CNN looks at Super Hornet and military aircraft of the future
- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy emphasizes Core Values in address to Midshipmen
- Navy leaders fix enlistment bonus mix-up; Sailors to be paid what's on their contract
- Navy looking for volunteers to help at National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.
- Chief of Naval Operations stresses need for Sailors and Marines to be innovative
- Sea, Air, Space Expo in Washington, D.C., offers glimpse of future technology
- Sailors and Marines train with Australian Naval Forces during Tandem Thrust '97
- Marines get easy access to info on MCI correspondence courses
- News you can use to make your next move easier
- HEALTHBEAT: Physical therapy helps injured Sailors and Marines get back to work

We need your input on Navy-Marine Corps News, so call our FEEDBACK LINE at (202) 433-6108 or DSN 288-6108 and leave a message or send us E-Mail at: [nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil)

If you have distribution questions contact Mr. John Morrissey at (202) 433-5844 or DSN 288-5844, or write him at the address mentioned below. All Navy-Marine Corps News tapes must be returned each week. Please use the enclosed return label.

If you have items that you think would be of interest to the Navy or Marine Corps worldwide, please submit your original video contributions on BetaCam, Hi-8, Super VHS, or 3/4 inch videotape to the nearest Navy Broadcasting Fleet Support Detachment or send by fastest means possible to our field producer at:

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